

Introduced by Senator Vasconcellos

February 21, 2003

An act to repeal and add Section 51220.3 to the Education Code, relating to instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 801, as introduced, Vasconcellos. Instruction: grade point average.

(1) Existing law, commencing in the 2005–06 school year prohibits a school district, when calculating a pupil's grade point average, from assigning extra grade weighting to a course that covers a subject required for admission to the University of California or the California State University unless the University of California approves the course for extra grade weighting.

This bill would repeal this provision and would instead require a school district maintaining a high school and that uses a weighted grade point average to determine class rank to report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction by February 1, 2005, on the methodology used to compute the grade point average, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the superintendent to make this information available to the public by January 1, 2006, and to notify the Legislature of its availability.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 51220.3 of the Education Code is
2 repealed.

3 ~~51220.3.—(a) Commencing with the 2005–06 school year, a~~
4 ~~school district may not, when calculating a pupil’s grade point~~
5 ~~average, assign extra grade weighting to a course that covers a~~
6 ~~subject required for admission to the University of California or~~
7 ~~the California State University unless the school district submits~~
8 ~~a description of the course curriculum to the Office of the President~~
9 ~~of the University of California for approval and receives~~
10 ~~confirmation from the University of California that it approves the~~
11 ~~course for extra grade weighting and includes the course on its list~~
12 ~~of honors courses. A course whose description is submitted to the~~
13 ~~University of California for approval would be reviewed through~~
14 ~~the university’s existing articulation process that awards extra~~
15 ~~credit for grade weighting only for courses that provide the depth,~~
16 ~~breadth, and rigor that is substantially similar to an advanced~~
17 ~~placement course, an entry level college course, or a community~~
18 ~~college level course.~~

19 ~~(b) (1) Commencing with the 2005–06 school year, this~~
20 ~~section shall apply to pupils in grade 9.~~

21 ~~(2) Commencing with the 2006–07 school year, this section~~
22 ~~shall apply to pupils in grades 9 and 10.~~

23 ~~(3) Commencing with the 2007–08 school year, this section~~
24 ~~shall apply to pupils in grades 9 to 11, inclusive.~~

25 ~~(4) Commencing with the 2008–09 school year, this section~~
26 ~~shall apply to pupils in grades 9 to 12, inclusive.~~

27 SEC. 2. Section 51220.3 is added to the Education Code, to
28 read:

29 51220.3. Each school district maintaining a high school that
30 uses a weighted grade point average to determine class rank shall
31 report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction by February 1,



1 2005, on the methodology used to compute the grade point
2 average. The superintendent shall make this information available
3 to the public by January 1, 2006, and shall notify the Legislature
4 of the availability of the information.

5 SEC. 3. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government
6 Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this
7 act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local
8 agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant
9 to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title
10 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for
11 reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000),
12 reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims
13 Fund.

